

# Rockwall County News

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## Rockwall County News Briefs

**Today is deadline for luncheon RSVPs**  
 The deadline for RSVPs for Tuesday's Royse City noon luncheon in the City Hall Melody Room, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest speaker will be Neal Lang of Senior Care Inc. To RSVP call 972-636-5000. Cost will be \$10.

**Two-day VBS begins tonight**  
 The two-day vacation Bible school, A Wild Journey to the Heart of God, will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday at the Church of Prayer Christian Fellowship, 11111 Belle Road, Rockwall. Children ages 3 to 12 are invited to learn how to walk in obedience through word, worship, and service.

**Lakeside Civic Chorus plans auditions**  
 Lakeside Civic Chorus is inviting all interested chorists to audition; positions are available in all sections. Membership requirements are sight-reading abilities, vocal quality, the ability to blend vocally and choral experience. Contact David Bush, director, at 972-679-1111 or bushdl@swbell.net to set up an audition. For more information visit lakesidecivicchorus.org.

**Farmers Market open Saturday**  
 The Farmers Market in downtown Rockwall will be open from 10 a.m. to noon, offering fresh produce, toffee, salad dressing, food mixes, roasted coffee, local honey, plants and more. The market will be open each Saturday through August. For details call 972-772-6400.

**Church presents Movie Time in the Pulpit**  
 The First Christian Church of Rockwall, 3375 Ridge Road, will present an interplay of movies and faith Sunday and July 26, 27. Rev. Mark Irons preaching on Philippians 2:3-15 using the movie "Up" on Sunday and on 2 Kings 4:5-18, illustrated by the current "Star Trek" movie. Showtimes are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., with Sunday school at 10 a.m. Nursery available all morning. For information call 972-772-6400.

**'Come & See' FaithBridge Church**  
 FaithBridge Church, a United Methodist community, will host a "Come & See" event at 3 p.m. Sunday at Celia Haysry, FM 1141 and FM 552 (Dalton Road). The event is open to the public to see how the new church will worship; it is welcome. FaithBridge is a ministry of the First Methodist Church, Rockwall.

**Red Hot Robots Camp offered**  
 Camps of all types will be the focus of a camp for youths ages 6 to 12 from 9 a.m. to noon July 20-24 in the Rockwall Recreation Center Gym. Cost for Rockwall residents will be \$100; non-residents will pay \$210. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

**TC's Performing Dogs show set**  
 The Performing Dogs, a free program for youths in grades 1-5, will run from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the first-floor room of the Rockwall County Library.

**Stringerette Summer Camp scheduled**  
 Grades K-8 can participate in the Rockwall High School Stringerette Summer Camp, July 21-24 at Williams Elementary School. Activities will run from 9 a.m. to noon; first day starts at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$80 on the first day. For details call Sherry Shippy, cshippy@sbcglobal.net or call 972-816-1111.

**Ministerial Alliance plans meeting**  
 The Rockwall Ministerial Alliance (Pastors' Prayer Time) will meet at noon on Wednesday at the Rockwall County Helping Center conference room. Each participant should bring a brown paper bag; beverage and dessert will be provided. For more information call 972-771-5526.

**Rockwall town hall meeting slated**  
 The City of Rockwall will conduct a town hall meeting beginning at 7 p.m. July 23 in the City Hall council chambers, 385 S. Rockwall. To discuss the proposed draft zoning for the newly annexed Rockwall Estates community. Resident input will be welcomed. For more information call 972-771-7700.

**Random Axis is featured band**  
 The Random Axis will perform at the free City of Rockwall Concert Series event beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Rockwall Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive. For more information visit rockwall.com/parks.

**Reading program to wrap up**  
 The Rockwall County Library's Teen Read '09 will end July 25. All reading logs must be turned in by 4 p.m. on that date.

**Science camp scheduled**  
 A program covering a multitude of sciences - from biology to chemistry - will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon July 21 at the Harry Myers Community Center. The program is for youths ages 6-9. Cost will be \$140 for Rockwall residents; \$210 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

**End-of-Summer Party set at library**  
 The End-of-Summer Party for youths in grades 6-12 will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. July 28 in the first-floor meeting room of the Rockwall County Library.

**Seminar to focus on thyroid disorders**  
 The Pointe Health Network will conduct an interactive seminar on thyroid disorders beginning at 7 p.m. July 28. For more information call 972-772-6400.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Fate city council moves to terminate city secretary

by Kathy Williams  
 In a unanimous decision Monday night, the Fate city council voted to terminate city secretary Eddie Sturgal in the wake of his June 26 arrest in Collin County on a charge of Abuse of Official Capacity. Sturgal has been accused of misusing at least \$13,000 during his tenure as city secretary for the City of Lowry Crossing near McKinney. His termination was effective immediately.

Sturgal had been on administrative leave from the City of Fate since June 26. There is no evidence of wrongdoing on his part during his time with Fate, where he had been city secretary since December 2008.

The city council met in executive session for about 40 minutes during its June 13 meeting to determine Sturgal's status.

Sturgal turned himself into the Collin County Sheriff's Office on June 26, posting a \$5,000 bond the same day and was released.

**Interim City Secretary**  
 In anticipation of Sturgal's termination, Fate City Manager Vicki Mikel and Mayor Bill Broderick contacted Texas First Group to assist with the search for an interim city secretary. Mikel and Broderick asked the city council to approve a resolution entering into a contract with TFG for an applicant who could begin work on Tuesday, July 14.

The unnamed candidate, who had been pre-interviewed by Mikel and Broderick, has 31 years experience as a municipal secretary, working across the North Texas area in West Lake, Decatur, Euless, Haltom City and other cities.

Based on past experience, council members expressed concern that the interim secretary needed to be closely monitored and dealt with if concerns with her performance came to light. Mikel assured the council that, despite her excellent qualifications, the candidate would be closely monitored and any issues would be promptly addressed.

### Zoning Board of Adjustments

In other city business, the council unanimously voted to approve an ordinance creating its first Zoning Board of Adjustments and repealing an or-

inance giving that power to the city council. Four residents were appointed to the board, including Rodney Smith, Place 1 and Jamie McMenamin, Place 3, to a two year term; and Brad Bianucci, Place 2, and Jim Thornhill, Place 4, to a one year term. The council is still taking applications for a fifth board member.

### Animal Control

The city council voted to extend its contract with the City of Royse City for animal control services, but with an adjustment in the pay schedule. Fate City Manager Vicki Mikel said in the past Royse City charged a

flat rate of \$15,000 per year for the service, with an upcoming increase to \$16,000. Mikel was able to negotiate a per call fee, substantially reducing Fate's obligation to about \$1,200 per month. She said Royse City would charge \$40 per hour per call, with a two-hour minimum.

Mikel said Royse City would pick up dogs and cats, with Fate paying for that service, the cost of boarding the animals, administrative costs, vet fees if necessary and the cost of euthanasia if the animal is not claimed or adopted.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Heath Department of Public Safety arrests suspect in ATV robbery

One suspect in the robbery of an All-Terrain Vehicle in the Heath Stoneleigh neighborhood has been arrested, with a warrant issued for a second suspect.

According to a Heath DPS press release, the incident occurred June 17 when two 13-year-olds were riding the ATV in their neighborhood. A Hispanic male who appeared to be in his 30s approached them and began asking questions about the ATV. He then sat on the ATV and turned it back on.

When one of the boys protested and reached to turn off the ATV, the suspect struck the boys multiple times. He then fled on the ATV. A witness to the incident saw a silver Ford Expedition follow the suspect, who soon ditched the ATV in a nearby tree line. The suspect then got into the

Expedition, which sped away.

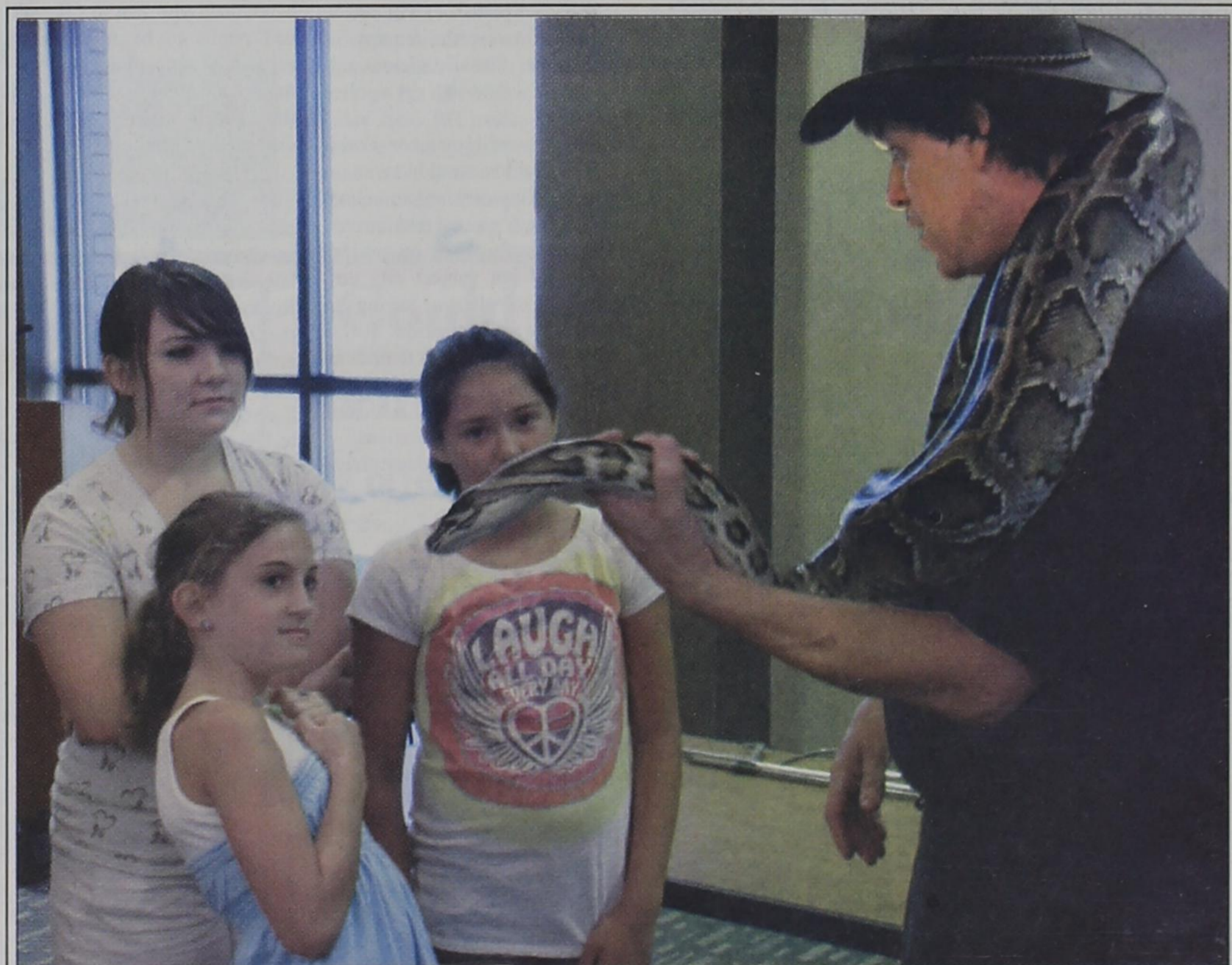
Heath DPS Officer Lane Simmons responded to the call for assistance, recovered the ATV and turned the investigation over to Detective Sergeant Scott Trammell and Officer Brian Burton. Aided by valuable information provided by the initial witness and one of the boy's parents, the officers apprehended the suspect in the Southeast Dallas area.

"Criminals may consider Heath an easy target because we are a small town. The transient nature of these suspects increased the difficulty of the investigation, but this case demonstrates the ability of our officers to use their resources and investigative tools to pursue suspects in crimes committed in our community," said Terry Garrett, chief and direc-

tor of the City of Heath Public Safety Department.

"The incident is also a reminder that we are not immune to the crime that may occur more frequently in larger cities," added Chief Garrett. "The potential is always present, and residents should remain vigilant and contact our department anytime they notice suspicious activity."

Citizen involvement is always valuable, confirms Officer Burton. "The witnesses did a great job of maintaining a safe distance as they gathered information, and the kids did a good job with the details and identifying the suspects in our photo line up. These things combined with the investigative process resulted in the arrest and warrant."



Shelby Kissane (center) keeps a careful eye on 80-lb. Evie, a Burmese Python introduced at Tuesday's Teen Read activity at the Rockwall County Library. Herpetologist Daryl Sprout of Snake Encounters showed the teens several snake species, including ball pythons, an Australian carpet python, a blood python and a reticulated python. The reticulated python is the longest, but not the heaviest, snake species in the world, with the longest recorded specimen measuring 33 feet. Sprout also educated the teens about snakes, explaining the some are "venomous," not "poisonous." Sprout's advice to anyone who encounters a snake is not to try to kill it, but "take two steps backward and go play somewhere else." He said most snakes bite humans in self-defense and can only strike half their body length. Also getting to know Evie are Peyton DeMarais (right) and Ashlynn Hurley (left). The library's summer teen program winds up its season with TC's Performing Dogs on July 21 and an end of summer celebration on July 28. All reading logs are due back to the library by 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 25.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



# Rockwall County News Briefs

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30 at the Lake Pointe Café in the medical center, 6800 Scenic Drive, Rowlett; enter through the north entrance portico. Speaker will be Dr. Sumana Gangi, who is board-certified in endocrinology and metabolism and internal medicine. For details call 1-866-525-5762.

### Airwave 80s to play at Harbor

Airwave 80s will perform at the free City of Rockwall Concert by the Lake Series event beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 30 at The Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive. For more information visit rockwall.com/parks.

### Training set for library's volunteer tutors

The Rockwall County Library's needs volunteer tutors to help adults learn to read and speak English, pass the GED test and obtain U.S. citizenship. Classes are offered mornings from 10 a.m. to noon and from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Tutors need not be teachers of speak Spanish. Training will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the library. Classes begin Labor Day. To register go by the ELS classroom or call Gloria at 972-204-7705.

### Free immunization clinic scheduled

Get all recommended immunizations, including newly required shots for first- and seventh-grade students, at a free clinic set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 1 at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. Children up to age 18 will be served; no appointment required. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Immunization records will be needed. For more details visit carevan.org or call 972-689-8285.

### FUMC Heath to host Bible school

The First United Methodist Church of Heath will host its vacation Bible school from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 3-7. Sign-up sheets are available at the church office or at the church Web site: fumcheath.org. Registration costs \$15 per child or \$35 for three or more in the same family. Scholarships are available. For details call 972-771-6732.

### Secret Agent Camp set

CSI-themed science activities will be offered in a Secret Agent Camp for youths ages 9-12. The event will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 3-7 in the Rockwall ISD Education Center Gym. Cost will be \$140 for Rockwall residents, \$210 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

### Jeanne Lay & Fat Tuesday to perform

Jeanne Lay & Fat Tuesday will perform at the free City of Rockwall Concert by the Lake Series event beginning at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 6 at The Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive. For details visit rockwall.com/parks.

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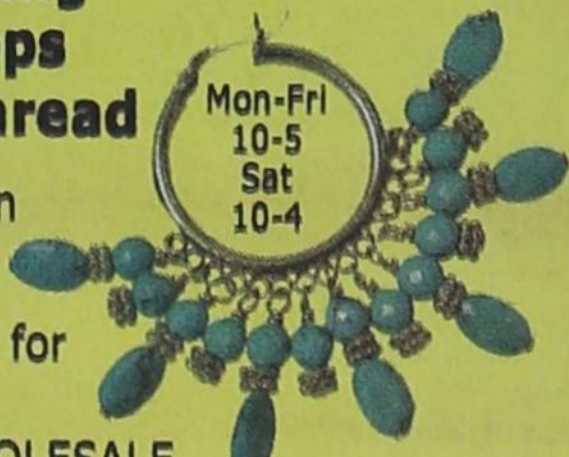
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Proudly representing the Rockwall County Sheriff's Posse in the Heath 4th of July parade, (from left) John Ogle, Choice Smit Dyer (center with American flag), Jim Wardlaw (at right with blue Posse flag) and Sheriff Harold Eavenson continue a long-standing of riding in the parade to the delight of the crowds. The Sheriff's Posse is an organization of volunteers whose goal is to assist the provide safety when animals stray onto roadways, patrolling the parking lot during high school activities and participate in community events. The Rockwall Sheriff's Posse has also won many awards at the Fort Worth Stock Show.

Staff Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News

## Area students earn degrees at UNT

Thirteen area students received degrees from the University of North Texas during spring commencement exercises.

According to a university news release, area graduates included Trent Warren Lawless of Heath, who received an AUD in audiometry; Keyan S. Kenney, who earned a BFA in communication design; and Rockwall's Laura Frances Conley, BS in applied behavior analysis; Caitlin Marie Coppler, BS in merchandising; James Martin Evans, BS in emergency administration and planning; Derek Gene Greenawalt, BS in kinesiology; Caleb Allen Maxted, BSET in electronics engineering technology; and Matthew Gordon McElligott, BFA in studio art.

Other Rockwall graduates include Uduak Bassey Ntekim, MBA in business administration; Kirby Leigh Phalen, BA in sociology; Meghan Leigh Self, BA in English; Tiffany Nicole Treece, BS in merchandising; and Jennifer I. Weldon, BBA in organizational behavior and human resource management.

## Fate City Council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

She also said the downside of the agreement is Roysse City will only pick up dogs and cats and does not handle calls involving wild or nuisance animals. In case of a dangerous or wild animal in their vicinity, Mikel said residents should call the emergency number for Animal Services on the Fate city web site and the designated personnel will decide how to forward the request for assistance. She said vicious animal calls would also get a police response.

City Council member Forest Murley said he would like an internal policy defining an animal emergency so citizens would know exactly when to call for help and not subject city employees to always having to make that determination. Roysse City Animal Services defines an animal emergency for contract purposes as a dog bite, a vicious animal and similar situations.

Murley also asked that citizens

receive a call back after making an animal report with the action taken to assure them the city is handling their concerns.

A citizen who said she had seen two bobcats and a coyote on her property, but did not have a response when she called for help, addressed the council early in the meeting. Mikel said the agreement with Roysse City still had points to be worked out, especially concerning wild animals within the city limits, but the council would continue to discuss a solution.

### Law Enforcement

The council voted to approve a resolution to continue an Interlocal Agreement for law enforcement services with Rockwall County. Mikel said the 2009-2010 contract for law enforcement is the same as the 2008-2009 agreement, but with a 3 percent increase, from \$37,000 to \$38,170.

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Kevin Kelley (center) runs to line up for another tu slip-n-slide at the Fulton School's "Splish Splash" camp. 5-year-olds last Friday. Fulton dad Mark Henkemeyer keeps watch as (left to right) Kristian Kelley, Caroline Dillon Vora and Braeden Buffington have fun in the splash campers played in the water and made crafts, including fish and seashell picture frames, each day of the week. "It's been great," said teacher Sandra Henkemeyer.

Photo by Elizabeth Fudge/Rockwall County News

## Russian Equestrian Circus plans weekly performances

The Russian Equestrian Circus will perform tonight and Saturday and Sunday as a means of generating income to help the performance group regroup.

The performance group, Artania, emigrated from Russia to Canada to bring its show to North America. The performers

and their animals way to Texas a few ago to perform in Dallas.

According to reports, the producer behind the show, market the performing them under-attended in recent television reports, the promoter canceled all of Artania's shows, leaving 30 performers and 19 horses in a in downtown Dallas.

Lisa Blackmon of Sport Horses heard the TV and offered her ranch as a place for performers to stay. Artania should continue for a couple of weeks.

The horses and their ers will be in Rock, they can raise enough return to Canada or re-show tour.

Performances are set tonight, at noon and Saturday and at 6 p.m. General admission will VIP tables are being cost of \$75 per person. If you would like additional show information, please contact us at blackmon.com/artania or call 972-771-4515.

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# McLendon-Chisholm continues restructuring ad valorem tax for city

**Williams**  
McLendon-Chisholm city continues to hammer out the town's first ad valorem tax with an agreement on the July 14 meeting.

After a year of public council discussions of options to the city deficit by a volunteer's review committee, the council had voted at its June 17 meeting to instruct staff to process of instituting the tax.

The tax will not be set until appraised valuations are completed by the Rockwall Central Appraisal District.

City Council member Butler presented a resolution to assist the council in discussing an exemption for residents over 65 and those with a disability. Butler said 79 residents in McLendon-Chisholm are over-65/disabled.

Butler said that those with disabilities are not included in that number as the federal government sets an exemption.

Reviewing the exemption by the other taxing entities in Rockwall County — including Heath, Fate, Royse and Rockwall — the council will vote on the high and low number-averaged the remains for a suggested exemption of \$25,000.

Member Jess Lovell said that number was at the top of what the city could

offer and suggested a \$30,000 exemption would better benefit the targeted residents. The remaining council members, with the exception of council member Patrick Short, who was absent, agreed to a \$30,000 exemption.

Butler also suggested the council consider not placing a freeze on the exemption amount as the city does not yet know how the new taxes will affect the monetary workings of the city. He said if appraisals go up in the future and the exemption amount is frozen, that action could result in substantial loss of tax revenue for the city. Butler suggested waiting at least a couple of years to study trends and see how the new process will work before considering a freeze.

The council approved an Interlocal Agreement with Rockwall Central Appraisal District for collection services for the 2009-2010 collection year. Butler said the agreement is the same as the other taxing entities in the county.

McLendon-Chisholm Mayor Mike Donegan praised the city council for their efforts to establish a fair exemption that is beneficial to both the residents and the city. "Everyone thought long and hard about this exemption. It didn't take just ten minutes in a council meeting. I appreciate everyone's comments," he said.

### Waste Collection

In other business, Butler said the city is continuing to work on stopping illegal trash collection in the city limits by Hiram Waste. The city won a lawsuit in May against Hiram Waste for illegally collecting trash in

McLendon-Chisholm. Hiram has filed an appeal and continues to collect from 27 homes, despite 11 citations from the city to cease and desist. He also said Hiram has not filed for a commercial permit to operate in McLendon-Chisholm.

The city awarded a five-year trash collection contract to IESI in October 2008. Butler said the city has not cited residents who use Hiram, preferring to educate them on the collection agreement and hoping they will comply without extreme measures. He said letters have been sent to those residents, but none have yet contracted with IESI.

Butler said feedback to the letters has included such comments that some residents will wait for the appeals process to play out before making a change, to suggesting the city can't force residents to use a certain provider since the developments have private roads that the city doesn't control.

Butler said, "We have an ordinance in place and to ignore it is not acceptable."

The appeal will be heard in the Rockwall County district court. It meets once a month and a trial date has not been announced.

Former McLendon-Chisholm council member Beverly Stibbens was in attendance at Tuesday's meeting and questioned why, after almost a year, residents had not been cited for continuing to use an unauthorized and unlicensed provider. She said the agreement with IESI states a resident will be cited for noncompliance and it is not fair to the rest of McLendon-Chish-

olm citizens who are in compliance to allow others to violate the ordinance.

Mayor Mike Donegan said he feels at this time he would rather work with residents before handing out citations.

### City Engineer

The council discussed contracting with Dub Douphrate of Douphrate & Associates to serve as city engineer. The city has previously contracted with TRC Engineering for those services, but Butler said they went out of business in the Dallas area, leaving McLendon-Chisholm in need of an engineer familiar with the needs of a growing municipality.

Douphrate, who has worked with the city on its water and sewer issues, was suggested due to his familiarity with the city's needs, his close proximity and availability and his extensive experience as a city engineer. He served the City of Rockwall as its first city engineer for 10 years, was director of community development, was a code enforcement engineer and worked in planning and zoning.

He has been working with Butler on a sewer Interlocal Agreement with the cities of Rockwall and Heath and reviewing the city limit boundaries.

Butler said in addition to providing his expertise in working with developers, Douphrate expects to, among other responsibilities, review current standards of design and engineering ordinances for developments and update any language or requirements to ensure the city is in compliance.

Donegan said developer's fees would pay for a majority of the cost to contract with Douphrate.

### Emergency Response Time

Council member Steve Hatfield said concern has been raised about response time by Rockwall County emergency personnel to McLendon-Chisholm. Hatfield and McLendon-Chisholm Fire Chief Skippy Waters met with Lt. David Davis of the Rockwall Sheriff's Department to address their concerns and discuss possible solutions.

Hatfield said after a tour of the dispatch facilities, several issues became clear. He said dispatchers at the Sheriff's Office not only field 911 calls, they also answer the regular telephones and must handle those issues. He said they learned that when an accident occurs, the Sheriff's

Office often receives multiple 911 calls from cell phones for the same incident and must address each call, which can result in a delay in dispatching the appropriate assistance.

Hatfield said, after seeing how the operations work, "I feel they are doing as good a job as they can." He said it was discussed that in the future the Sheriff's Office may consider having

someone separate from dispatch handle general incoming calls, leaving dispatch free to handle true emergencies.

He said, "Because we are rural, we need a good response time. Our volunteer fire department is well trained and certified by the State of Texas as first responders to handle this type of problem. I want the citizens to know that about our fire department."

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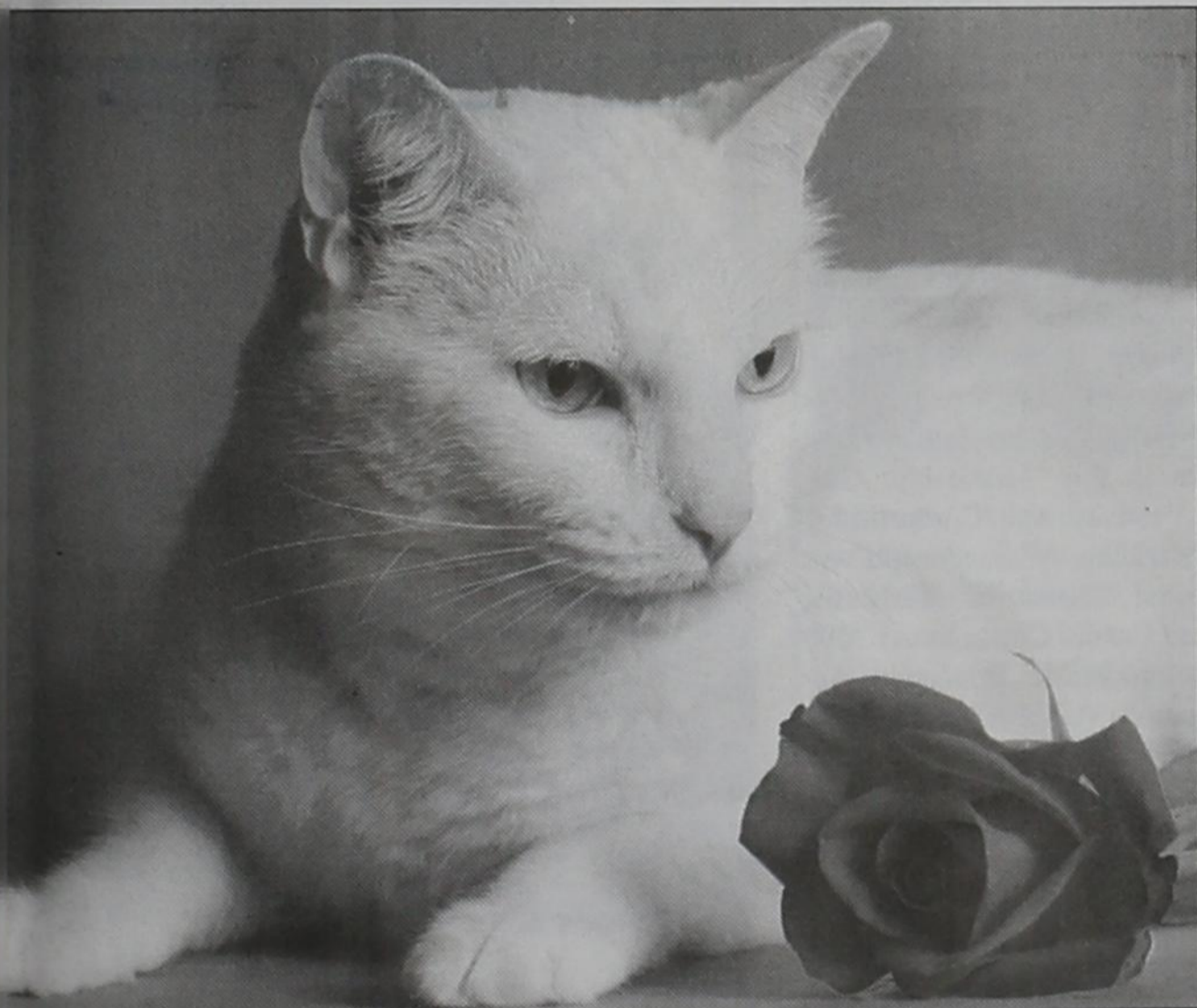
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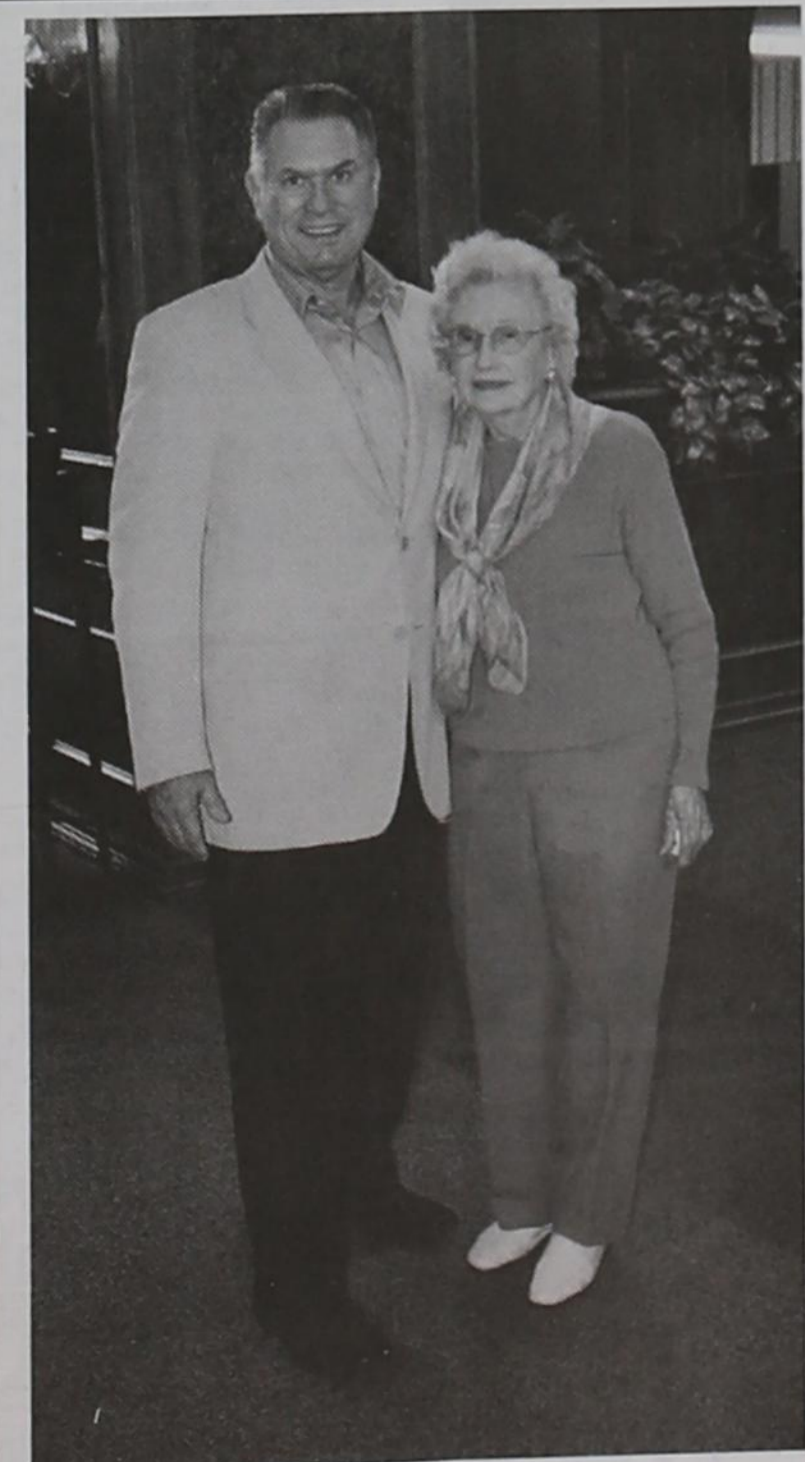


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## Real Friends of the Week ready for adoption

Lucile, a solid white short hair, was born in 2000. She was adopted by her owner to a farm and is now looking for her forever home. She is a cat with beautiful blue eyes who enjoys being on your lap while having her head scratched and her head rubbed. Otherwise, she lies at her feet to enjoy your company. She is quite talkative when she needs attention. Along with being very affectionate, she is quite playful. She loves to play with her favorite green mouse toy that makes her purr. Occasionally she will watch TV — a favorite being PBS. Like many cats, she is frightened by loud noises and therefore would prefer to be around with adults and children. If you would like to meet Lucile or have any questions, please contact us at [info@feralfriends.org](mailto:info@feralfriends.org).  
Courtesy of Elise Rockwall County News



Lucile Tate (right) with her son Garvin Tate

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# Reading for Adults feted by Rockwall Rotarians

Reading for Adults, a local nonprofit adult and family literacy program, recently was honored with a Rockwall Breakfast Rotary Club Community Grand Award.

The award is part of the club's ongoing effort to support the community through the Rotarian "service above self" objective.

The grant was awarded to support the program's GED tutoring effort.

Reading for Adults, using trained volunteers, provides free GED tutoring to residents of Rockwall County. In the past year, the program has assisted 50 individuals in earning their GEDs.

Announcement of the award came during a Dallas Race Week event hosted for Rockwall by Rotarians at the Hilton Bella Harbor. Following the event, Rotary president Blake James visited the Reading for Adults' primary tutoring site in the Adult Literacy Center at the Rockwall County Library. There, he presented the award to program manager Gloria Bishop

and library director Marcine McCulley.

Reading for Adults offers a range of tutoring services. In addition to GED tutoring, a U.S. citizenship test preparation is offered, as are English as a Second Language classes. All classes are made available during the day Monday through Saturday and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Individuals interested in attending a GED, citizenship or ESL tutoring class in the fall are encouraged to register now for classes beginning in September. To register, go to the Adult Literacy Center at the Rockwall County Library, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall.

Individuals interested in being a part of the tutoring team are encouraged to call the Reading for Adults office at 972-204-7705 or visit the literacy center at the library to obtain volunteer information. No prior teaching experience is required; training is provided. The next training session is scheduled for Aug. 1.



Reading for Adults program manager Gloria Bishop, left, and Rockwall County Library director Marcine McCulley are shown accepting a Community Grant Award recently presented to the nonprofit group by the Rockwall Breakfast Rotary Club. Making the presentation of the Rotarians is the club president, Blake James.

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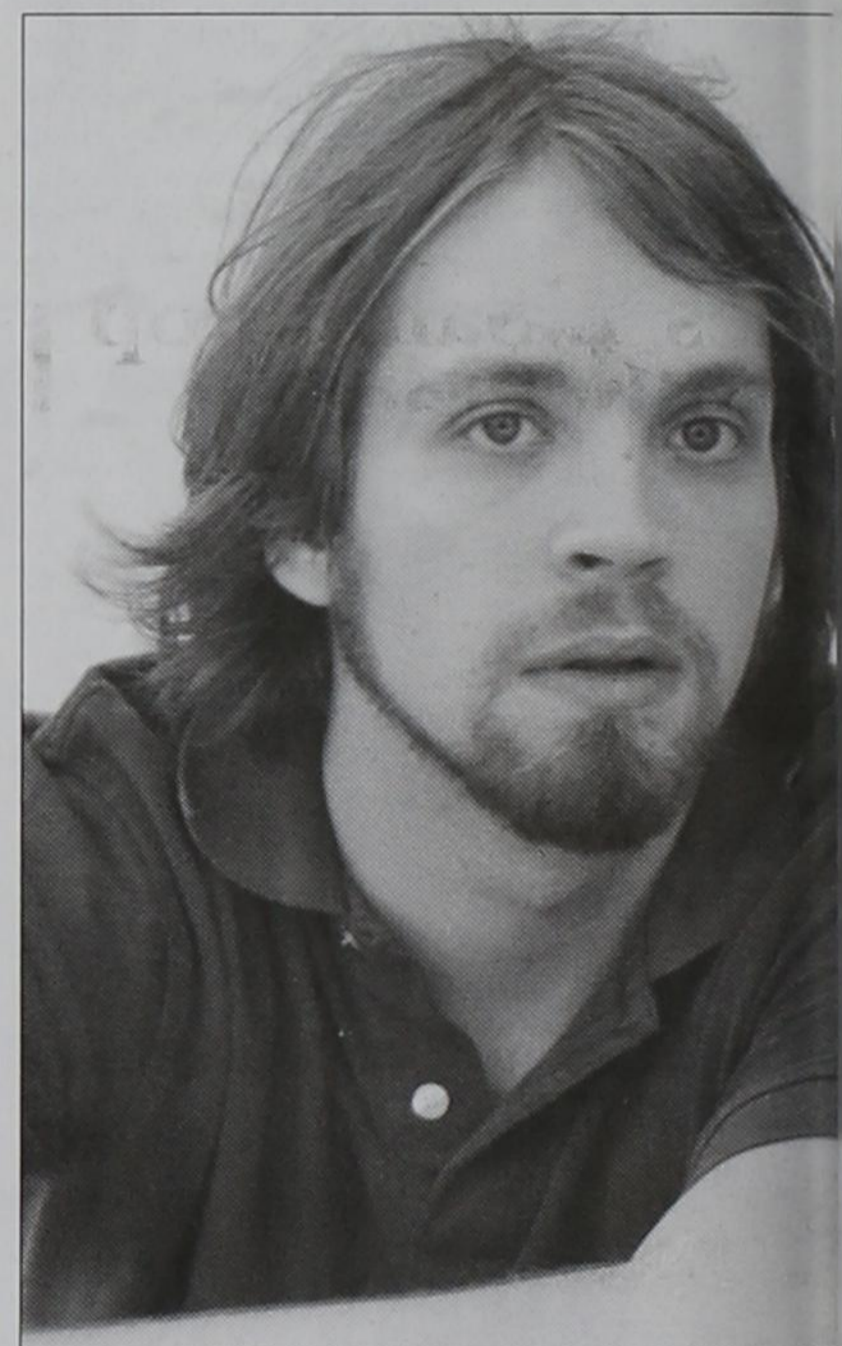
## Guitarist Joseph Palmer graduates with music performance degree

Joseph Palmer of Rockwall graduated from Columbus State University, Schwob School of Music, on May 17, 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance for Classical guitar. Joseph is a 2005 Rockwall High School graduate. He started his classical guitar education with Jason Earnheart of Rockwall.

During his years at Columbus State in Georgia, he participated in several Guitar Festivals and competitions in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi and Texas. He won First Prize in the 2008 "Classical Minds Guitar Festival" in Houston and First Prize in the "Mississippi Guitar Festival and Competition" in Meridian, Miss. Joseph was selected to perform with flutist Laura Canelo Cohen at the 2008 Georgia Music Education Association (GMEA) convention in Savannah, Ga. He also began teaching guitar in 2006.

Palmer has had the opportunity to perform for master classes with several world-class guitarists, such as David Russell, Manuel Barrueco and Ricardo Gallen, during his time at the Schwob School of Music.

Palmer has been accepted at the University of Texas at Austin for



Joseph Palmer

Masters Study this fall and was awarded a substantial scholarship. He plans to continue teaching guitar in Austin as he did in

Columbus. Palmer is the son of Palmer of Rockwall Palmer of Royse City the brother of Jacob and Palmer of Rockwall a Palmer of Lone Oak.

**Rockwall County  
Letters to the Editor**

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual's character will be rejected, as well as those promoting political candidates. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

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# Rockwall County Book Review

## Book Review and Some Advice Bolitar Series by Harlan Coben

As a book reviewer, I know that I'm not alone in my opinion. I remember, years ago, my husband was in Iraq as a SeaBee with the Navy. I mention this because, during his time in Iraq, I was adept at sending packages from home with all kinds of things for him. I quickly learned, however, that some items traveled well while others did not. For example, don't travel well. Trust me on this. They melted and mangled at the bottom of their foil packages in any form - yes - even M&M's, don't travel well. At least, with most days in the 130° range, you were lucky you had lovingly packed arrived intact, if at all. And my husband's duties required frequent travel, his packages were rerouted or held for indefinite periods of time awaiting his assigned base.

Right now you're asking, am I writing about the packaging of care packages to Iraq as a lead in to my book review? It's that always traveled well and always arrived exactly as intended were the dozens of books I sent. Books that stayed and far longer than trail mix, almond M&M's, or soggy Tarts. Books became just as essential to him as were the sunglasses that continually fell out of his prescription sunglasses every time he put them on.

The book I sent to my husband was "Promise Me" by Harlan Coben. It has been recommended to me as a stand-alone novel and one of my all time favorite mystery/thriller titles. It's not really a read. And, to add to my delight, I was pleased to find it was the eighth title in a popular series.

"The Promise" written by Coben, is the first title in the Myron Bolitar series. If you like sarcastic, beefy but dorky sports types who are always getting into sidekicks that always have your hero's back in their pockets, you're going to love getting to know this gang of

characters. The lead character and, seemingly, the most normal in the series, is a former star basketball player who blows through pre-season play for the Boston Celtics. He's six-foot-four, weighs twenty pounds and agile like a cat. Except for the fact that he could very well be my husband.

My husband's dream of playing pro basketball for the Celtics falls through when he gets a law degree, works for the government for a while, then returns to sports, as a sports agent. Only, sports



The halls of Trinity Episcopal Church of Heath were filled with the happy sounds of children attending Vacation Bible School the week of July 7-10. Led by Deacon Bonnie Morrill of Trinity and Cynthia Case of First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall, the cooperative effort between the two churches was a huge success. The event was entitled "Treasures of the Desert" and centered on the Biblical tales of Noah and the Ark, Moses and the Ten Commandments, the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Sower. Those in attendance were able to experience the tales through story time, crafts, music, puppets and games. During the study of the Good Samaritan, the children brought canned goods to donate to the Helping Hands food pantry, demonstrating that everyone has the opportunity to be a good samaritan.

Photo Courtesy of Mary Thacker/Rockwall County News

agents like Myron (and Jerry McGuire), are more than just agents. In Myron's case, he becomes an investigator who solves one quirky mystery after another, sometimes for his clients, other times for his family and friends. Myron's self-deprecating in an endearing way and you can't help but cheer him on in his various hits and misses.

In the same way Myron is the good natured, likeable, lovable, adorable, big brother type everyone wants to hang out with, his alter-ego, Winsor Horne Lockwood III, is not. Win - for short - is Myron's best friend, confidante, right arm and all-around go-to guy. Win is indescribable, so I won't attempt it. I can only say that I find him the most interesting character of the series. He's the rich kid who finds acceptance in perfection, domination and physical and mental control. His antics are so deliciously over the top, you forgive his Ivy League snobbery and find yourself wanting to be just like him. Even my husband sometimes answers his phone by demanding, "Articulate." One of my favorite Win-isms.

This series has unfolded in an unusual way. Coben has returned to the series twice after long absences, mostly because of the persistence of his fans, including a huge following in Iraq. He has brought Myron, Win and the same cast back together for nine separate titles, the last one being "Long Lost," released in April of this year. And,

though I anxiously awaited the release of "Long Lost," it was a bit of a bittersweet return. Myron seemed to be on his own in this story, traveling to France to help an old flame find her estranged husband.

Win makes an appearance, making sure to quip on every possible deviation of the name of his girlfriend, "Mee." Missing in action, however, are his business associates who play such integral roles in all previous titles. Gone, too, is the lighthearted Myron who, after taking a header off the nearest steep pier, always seems to land on his feet. There's no soft landing for him in this story.

What does appear, luckily for us, is a glimpse into what makes Myron tick. We've met Myron's parents and, unless I missed it, there had never been any mention of Myron's sister, and only a brief mention of his brother who works in Brazil. Maybe Myron is growing up and Coben is bringing it all full circle, wrapping up Myron's story by bringing him home.

I'll be there for the next installment, if only to see Myron recover from post traumatic stress disorder. I'll do my part for him just like I did for my husband in Iraq.

And one last hint on shipping books overseas, especially to Iraq; always put them inside their own Ziploc bag. They'll remain sand-free that way.

# Rockwall County Health Matters



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# On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett  
For archives of On God's Word visit

## Jesus' resurrection destroyed the power of death

During the time of Jesus' death, the sun was darkened for about 3 hours, the temple ripped in two from top to bottom, the land quaked and rocks broke into pieces. After his resurrection something happened that would have astounded many people in Jerusalem.

According to Matthew 27:52-53, "the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

One way God relays a message to people is by a vision. There are many wonderful accounts of visions appearing to people throughout the Bible. The book of Daniel is full of vividly descriptive visions about future events. The apostle John wrote the visions given to him related to significant events that will also occur in the future after Christ Jesus returns for God's born again children.

When God in heaven gives visions it is with a purpose to comfort, encourage, warn and prepare people. No doubt there are other reasons, but these presently come to mind.

God's first-born beloved son had just died, and three days and three nights later He raised him from the dead with a new and glorious body. What better way to announce the resurrection of His son than to give a vision to many people in Jerusalem showing the ultimate result, which is the future resurrection of all God's saints.

We have this scripture that reveals more information about what resulted, "Just as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death. That is the devil. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their life time subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Jesus Christ had the same flesh as all mankind, but did not have the same corruptible blood as the rest. This is because his Father, who conceived him, was not a man, but God in heaven. Because of Jesus' death and the shedding of his incorruptible blood, he will be able to destroy the devil who has the power of death over all of mankind and the fear the goes with it.

The power of the devil over mankind through death, has been ultimately transferred to our Lord Jesus Christ unto resurrection and everlasting life for all who believe with their hearts that God raised him from the dead.

After God resurrected Jesus from the dead, many people saw visions of God's beloved Old Testament saints coming out of the graves. This was a picture of the end game, the great finale that has not yet occurred, but has already been written into God's spiritual concerto. All of this is set to occur because of God's mighty work in that He raised His son Jesus from the dead.

What a powerful and gracious love God has showed for all people. Praise God in heaven!

## Crows' Feet Chronicles

Full Throttle is an eye-opener

by Cindy Baker

I leaned against the counter, waiting on my car to be serviced. The vending machine was in view and I decided to get something to drink before heading to Sherman. Hmm. All of the sodas seemed so boring, but then I spotted an energy drink--Monster. The ominous can was black with neon

green slime. Appropriate name. Striking container. Two dollars later and I was heading to Sherman at 75 miles an hour. My car was close behind me going 68.

It was my first energy drink ever, and I'm sure my heart rate was in triple digits. It occurred to me that my euphoria might be borderline illegal, and I felt the world was about to implode. I was meeting my friend Judy for lunch, but I slid in the booth at Cheddar's before my hairline had gotten completely out of the car. To say that I was chatty during our meal is an understatement. I was the queen of turbopuns while my mouth motored between bites, hardly giving Judy a chance to talk. Now I think I know how Michael Savage feels when he coils his tongue and lets it unwind on the radio program, "Savage Nation."

The next day Lanny and I stopped at a convenience store in Fort Worth. I chose a new energy drink--Rockstar. It said it was for athletes and rock stars. Perfect. I chose the Sugar Free can, which said it tastes like honey. If so, it came from a bee that hadn't showered since Christmas. Oh well, being alert has its downside. Once again, the energy drink dimmed my mental and physical capabilities while making me feel smarter and quicker than I really was. Although Mother Nature was saying, "Slow down," I felt Kenyan fast and wanted to walk a mile and a half of railroad tracks instead of riding in the car to the Fort Worth Stockyards.

I have tried several energy drinks since that first day, and I'm beginning to think there might be blood in my Red Bull stream. My eyes won't shut anymore and I can't remember the last time I blinked. I tweaked the words to a limerick I found on "Mad Kane's Humor Blog."

I've rarely been tempted by tea,  
And coffee does nothing for me.  
Red Bull, however--  
Awakes me forever.

Addicted? Heck no! I'll take three.

My energy reminds me of taking diet pills to stay awake and study for exams. I don't remember the studying as much as I remember the cleaning, washing, and tidying I did during the night. It's happening again. Last night I waxed my driveway. Know what's pathetic?

My driveway is gravel.  
cindybaker@cablone.net

## Delicious and Healthy Vegetables are Key for Summer Menus

The weather is hot, the entertaining factor is high, and perhaps you're looking for some light and delicious foods to serve at your next get-together. Vegetable dishes can be the ticket this time of year.

The hot weather season is one in which many vegetables are in season and at peak flavor. This could make menu creation as easy as picking a few treats from the garden or at your grocery store produce section. Avocados, zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, and a host of other vegetables and fruits can be part of meal creation. The key is looking for the freshest varieties that are at their peak. Consider these tips:

### Avocados

Nutrition: Potassium, vitamin C, vitamin B6, folate, riboflavin, and more  
Selection/Storage: Color should be uniform without blemishes. Fruit should yield when gently pressed. Store at room temperature.

### Green Beans

Nutrition: A very good source of fiber  
Selection/Storage: Choose beans that are bright in color without soft spots. Store at room temperature or in the refrigerator.

### Beets

Nutrition: Excellent source of folate, potassium and vitamin C  
Selection/Storage: Small to medium size beets offer the best flavor. Look for beets with the greens still on, which signals freshness. Beets keep for a week in the refrigerator.

### Corn

Nutrition: Source of fiber and vitamin C  
Selection/Storage: Choose moist, green husks and silks. Look for plump, glossy kernels without spaces between them. You can store them for a day or two in the husks.

### Cucumber

Nutrition: High water content provides hydration during warm weather  
Selection/Storage: Look for dark green cucumbers that are firm to the

touch. Store in the refrigerator for up to five days.

### Eggplant

Nutrition: A good source of fiber.  
Selection/Storage: Choose ones that have a smooth, taut skin looking green cap at the end. Eggplants should feel heavy grown eggplants. Store in a cool room or in the refrigerator. T as they age.

### Okra

Nutrition: Good source of vitamin C and folate.  
Selection/Storage: Select short, less than 3 inch long pods. Feel. Store refrigerated for up to four days.

### Sweet Bell Peppers

Nutrition: Feature a lot of vitamin C, as well as vitamins A  
Selection/Storage: Look for deep colored peppers with firm bruises. Can keep refrigerated for three days or more.

### Summer Squash (and Zucchini)

Nutrition: Good source of vitamin C  
Selection/Storage: Look for small squash with thin, glossy refrigerated for a few days.

### Tomatoes

Nutrition: A source of vitamins A and C and potassium  
Selection: Choose plump, firm tomatoes that are blemish-free room temperature, if possible.

### Grilled Italian Vegetable Sandwiches

Now that you know how to select seasonal vegetables, see unique and refreshing way. Serves 4-6.

1 loaf crusty baguette or Italian bread (or your favorite)

1 eggplant, skinned and sliced into relatively thin strips

2 zucchini or summer squash, sliced medium thickness

Bruschetta mixture

2 small tomatoes

1 small yellow or red onion

1 fresh mozzarella (or packaged if fresh is unavailable)

Olive oil

Few leaves of fresh basil

Red wine or balsamic vinegar

Salt, pepper, and Italian seasonings to taste

Wash and slice the vegetables. Brush the eggplant and squash with olive oil and grill (or pan sear) until they have softened falling apart. An easy way to grill the smaller squash is to place in a foil packet to prevent slices from falling through the grill from the grill and allow to cool.

For the bruschetta: Peel and chop half of the onion (or more a potent onion flavor). Chop the two tomatoes. Place the onion into a bowl and drizzle with 3 to 4 teaspoons of olive oil and a vinegar. Season to taste with the salt, pepper, Italian spices and Cover and allow to chill in the refrigerator until the flavors meld.

When ready to prepare the sandwiches, slice the bread lengthwise into thin slices. Place a layer of the cooled mozzarella on the bottom half of the bread. Top with the zucchini garnish with the bruschetta mixture. Cover with the top of the bread and cut into portions for guests. For a different take on the sandwiches warm with the bread toasted and the cheese melted.

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"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you..."  
Matthew 7:7

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
Romans 10:13

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LIFE CHURCH ROCKWALL  
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ROCKWALL WARD  
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"Therefore I say unto you, Whatsoever ye desire, when ye pray, believe ye receive them, and ye shall have them."  
Matthew 7:7

"That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord, and believe in your heart that He is Lord, you will be saved."  
Romans 10:9

"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."  
Proverbs 10:13

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# Friday Opinions

## What Greenspan Missed

Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, made the world with this assertion: "I am not a free-market advocate. I am a free-market realist." He is one of the few people who have looked to the self-interest of lending institutions and not just to the shareholders' equity (myself especially) are in a state of shocked counterparty surveillance is a central pillar of our financial system. If it fails, as occurred this year, market stability is at risk.

Greenspan's claim that he had overestimated the "virtue of selfishness" in the world took place before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. During that hearing in late October, this exchange between Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Greenspan, as reported in the New York Times, is worth repeating:

Q: You had the authority to prevent irresponsible lending practices that led to the subprime mortgage crisis. You were advised to do so by many people. What was your ideology pushed you to make decisions that you made?

A: Yes, I've found a flaw. I don't know how significant it is. But I've been very distressed by that fact.

Q: Had better get used to hearing, "Even Alan Greenspan concedes that the free-market philosophy is flawed." But those who were skeptical about the free market might want hold off believing the statement just quoted. If it were true, he just may be wrong now.

Greenspan's reputation for being a free-market advocate is largely based on his testimony in the 1960s he associated with Ayn Rand and wrote "The Case for Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal." They were later republished in Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal. They are also: critiques of antitrust law in "Antitrust"; government intervention in "The Assault on Integrity"; and central banking in "Economic Freedom." Given that last topic, it was strange indeed that Greenspan was the chairman of the Fed in 1987.

**Greenspan in government**

Greenspan's record of himself. Before chairing the Fed, Greenspan was Gerald D. Green of the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) from 1974 to 1977. He was giving free-market advice, it apparently wasn't being taken. In 1974, Ford continued Richard Nixon's wage and price controls against inflation by wearing a "Whip Inflation Now" button. It was the public's fault. I don't recall Greenspan's protest. A free-market advocate would have resigned in disgust from the CEA. His prominence to reiterate what he had written in "Gold Standard": "The gold standard made it possible for the welfare of the banking system as a means to an unlimited expansion of the money supply and demand is not to be conned. As the supply of money increases, the supply of tangible assets in the economy, prices rise."

Greenspan saw a shining future in government "service." If so, he was the first Reagan administration he was appointed to chair a commission to "save" Social Security. The commission formulated a plan that Congress, that called for a series of payroll-tax increases and cuts intended to "extend the life of that shaky government

transfer program. Thus, instead of joining the growing movement questioning the legitimacy and long-term viability of Social Security, Greenspan became its savior.

It was a short step to the Federal Reserve, where he became steward of the country's money supply and hence the economy, holding the job for a record 18 and a half years. It is appropriate to point out that Greenspan helped keep inflation in check. This conflicts with the common view that monetary policy was loose, especially in the early 2000s, driving down interest rates. As Jeffrey Rogers Hummel and David R. Henderson wrote in Investor's Business Daily, low interest rates are not necessarily a sign of easy money.

Greenspan is ... correct when he attributes the unusually low interest rates early this decade to a massive flow of savings from emerging Asian economies and elsewhere.

The better way to judge monetary policy is by the monetary measures: MZM, M2, M1 and the monetary base. Since 2001, the annual year-to-year growth rate of MZM fell from over 20% to nearly 0% by 2006. During that time, M2 growth fell from over 10% to around 2%, and M1 growth fell from over 10% to negative rates.

The Fed most directly controls the monetary base. Its year-to-year annual growth rate since 2001 fell from 10% to below 5% in 2006 and now [March 2008] is 2%. Also, nearly all of the growth of the monetary base went into currency, much of which is held abroad.

The banking deregulation of the early 1980s admittedly attenuates the Fed's control over the broader monetary aggregates. But when all the measures agree, the message is clear: Monetary policy was not expansionary.

(For a dissenting view, see Robert Murphy's "Did the Fed Cause the Housing Bubble?")

Thus Greenspan's career from 1974 was hardly that of a dedicated free-market activist. He often paid lip service to self-regulating markets, but his professional conduct reveals someone who does not truly believe in laissez-faire. It calls to mind how, when being screened for his first government job, he explained that his belief in Ayn Rand's philosophy didn't actually apply to the world as we find it.

**Housing interventionism**

Conspicuously missing from Greenspan's testimony before the House committee was any reference to the perverse incentives that the government in many ways created for the mortgage industry. Interesting enough, he told the committee,

What went wrong with global economic policies that had worked so effectively for nearly four decades? The breakdown has been most apparent in the securitization of home mortgages. The evidence strongly suggests that without the excess demand from securitizers, subprime mortgage originations (undeniably the original source of crisis) would have been far smaller and defaults accordingly far fewer. But subprime mortgages pooled and sold as securities became subject to explosive demand from investors around the world.

The questions that cry out for answers are: Why were the securitizers clamoring for subprime mortgages? What can explain the "excess" and "explosive" demand for mortgages for people with low incomes and poor credit histories?

We know the answers. A government effort spanning several decades and the administrations of both parties, including the George W. Bush administration, pressured and even compelled lenders to make such mortgages. The idea was to eliminate poor credit history and lack of down payment as barriers to home ownership. This was carried out on many fronts, including the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the Federal Housing Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Community Reinvestment Act (aimed at promoting loans to low-income people), and Greenspan's announced readiness to provide liquidity when asset bubbles burst. A major part of the encouragement was the "too big to fail" doctrine, under which the government would bail out troubled lenders. Another major component was the "implicit guarantee" to Fannie and Freddie. As government-linked corporations, they could buy up dubious mortgages, bundle them into securities, and sell them to investors worldwide with an assurance that the investment would keep paying even if the mortgagors didn't. Everyone involved assumed the government stood behind the GSEs - a correct assumption in light of events. When they got in trouble this year, the government took them over while pushing them to continue buying up mortgages.

The result of this campaign to promote home ownership (while creating lucrative profit opportunities for the GSEs and others) was the relaxing of lending standards and the weakening of the market's natural discipline. If a local bank was being pressured to write as many loans as possible, knowing the mortgages would be sold to a GSE or another institution before close of business and turned into guaranteed mortgage-backed securities, there was little reason to enforce high standards on borrowers. After all, the banks had a mandate from the highest levels of government to make home ownership easy. Specialized mortgage brokers arose to take advantage of the opportunity. Every institution along the line was happy to go along. The lenders lent and the builders built. As long as housing values kept going up, the system could be sustained. If a home owner got in trouble with his adjustable-rate mortgage, no problem. He could refinance at the new higher value or sell the home for a profit.

But since the rise in housing prices was fueled by government-created demand, it couldn't go on forever. When interest rates rose and the housing glut became apparent, values turned south. Now many troubled mortgagors who found they owed more than their homes were worth saw default as their best option. The rest, as they say, is history.

Why Greenspan blamed the "free" market rather than the perverse incentives created by the government-banking complex is a matter of speculation. Since he was a party to this rotten system, acknowledging the government's role would reflect poorly on a major part of his career. So perhaps he thought he'd look better in the history books by blaming the free market and his misplaced faith in it.

Of course, the point is that there was no free market. You'd think that Greenspan would know that a free market would have no government safety net for the financial industry. But you'd be wrong.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, author of Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State, and editor of The Freeman magazine. Visit his blog "Free Association"

## A Cover-up

Williams

I wrote in last year's column titled "Global Warming Rope-4-2008": "Once laws are written, they are very difficult, if not impossible, to repeal. If a time would ever come when the permafrost in the U.S., as far south as New Jersey as it once did, it's not that Congress, caught in the grip of the global warming zealots, would repeal the laws on the books they wrote in the name of fighting global warming. Personally, I would not put it past them to write more." On the House of Representatives, by a narrow margin (219-212), the Waxman-Markey bill. The so-called "cap and trade" bill has been in the struggle against global warming. There's a full-court press on the U.S. Senate to pass its "cap and trade."

"Cap and trade" is first a massive indirect tax on the American people. The other source of revenue for Congress. More importantly "cap and trade" is about the most effective tool for controlling most economic activity. It is an openly declaring ourselves a communist nation and it's a nightmare's dream come true.

The rush and the press on the Senate? Increasing evidence is far from there being global warming, the Earth has been cooling for 10 years. Prominent atmospheric scientists sent a letter to Congress saying, "You are being deceived by global warming. ... The Earth has been cooling for ten years. ... The global warming was not predicted by the alarmists' computer models." Last year, more than 700 international scientists went on record dissenting to the global warming claims. About 31,500 American scientists, including 19 with Ph.D.s, have signed a petition, that in part reads, "There is no scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the global climate."

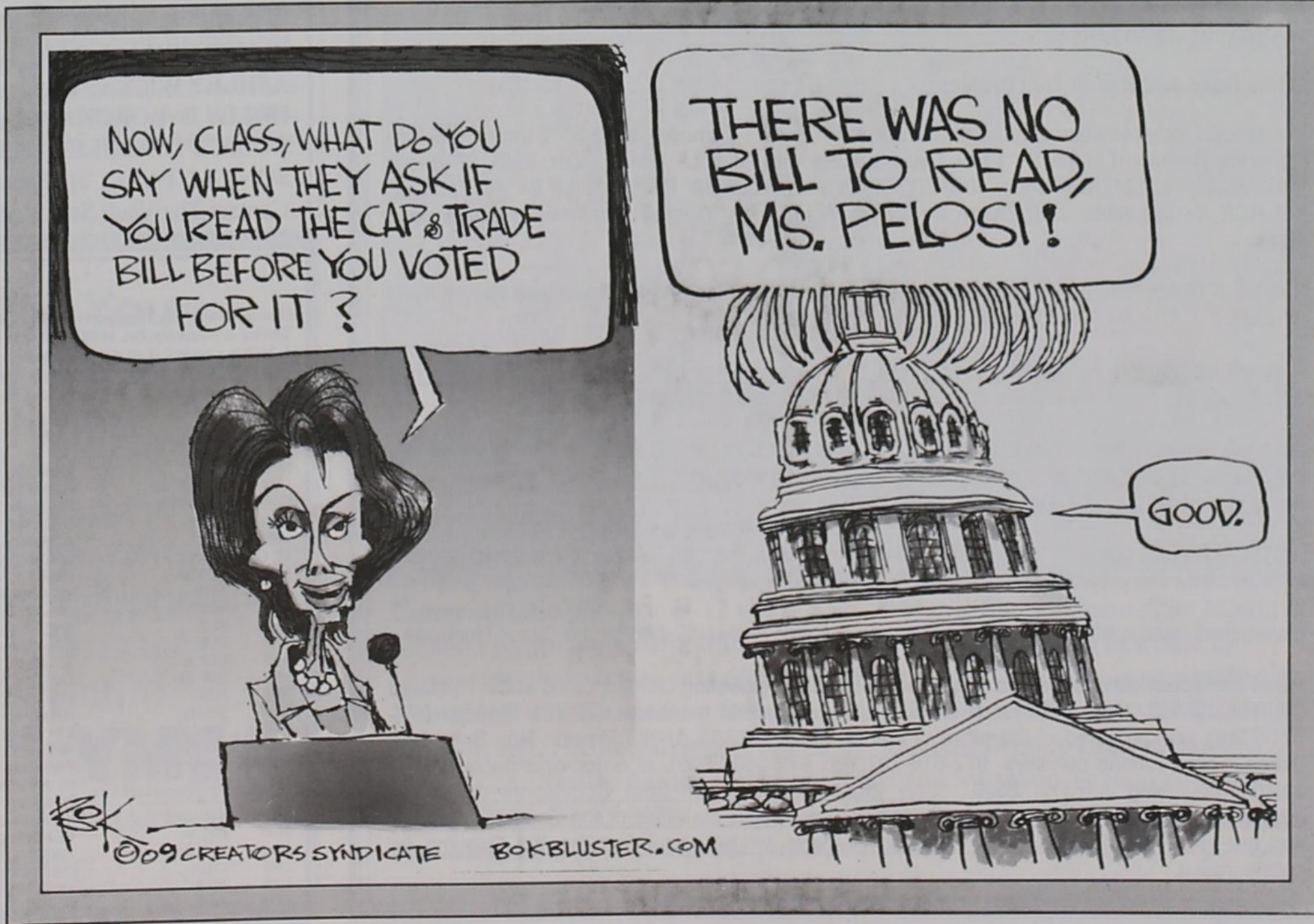
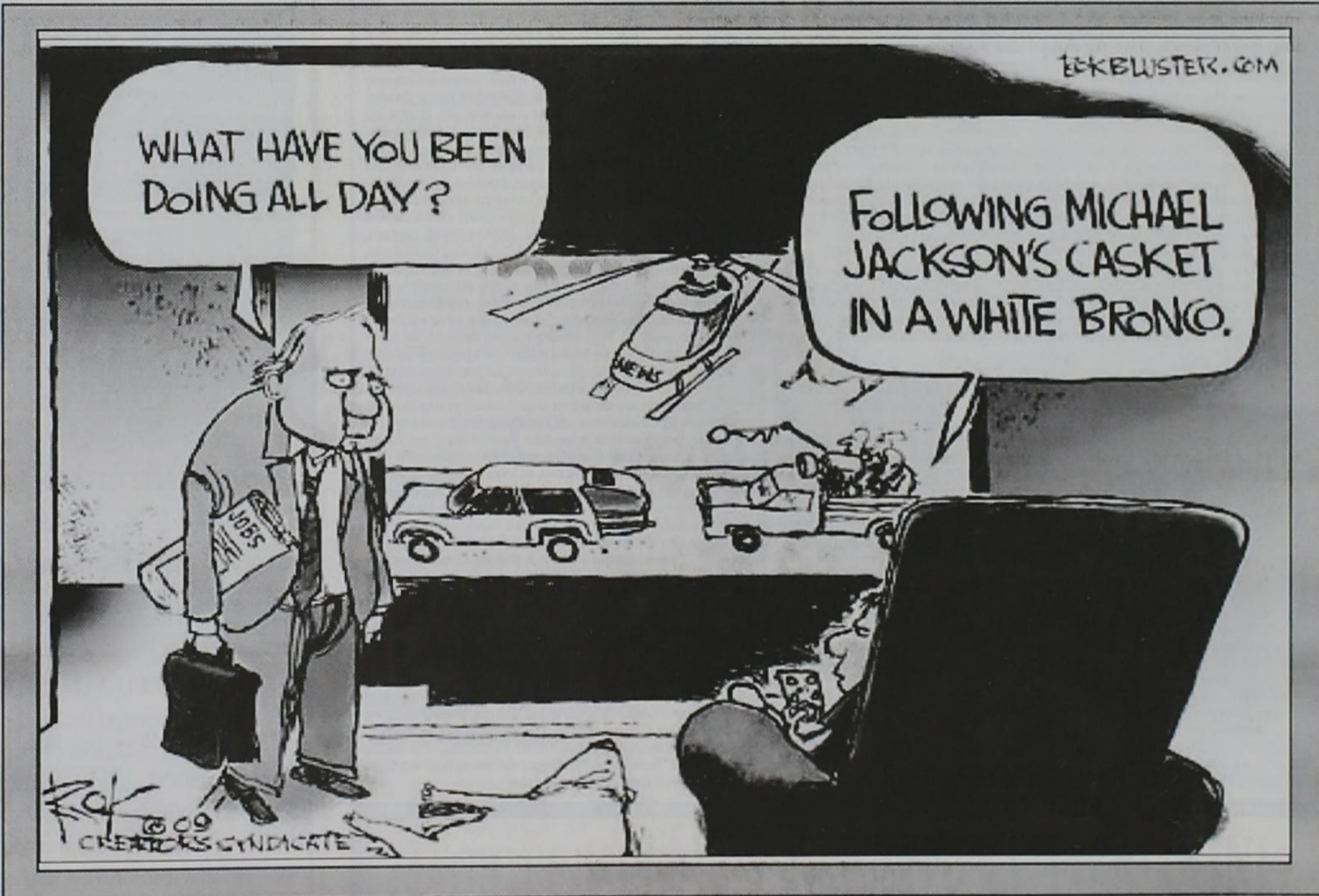
The EPA sees the increasing evidence against global warming as a threat to their agenda and has taken desperate measures. Before the House vote on "cap and trade," the Washington, D.C. Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) released some EPA documents that an internal report by Alan Carlin, a 35-year-old analyst, criticizing EPA's position on global warming, had been redacted for political reasons (http://bit.ly/11XwoC). One of the documents, Dr. Al McGartland, director of the EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics reads, "The administrator and administration have moved forward on endangerment, and your comments do not affect our policy case for this decision. ... I can see only one impact of your comments: it is given where we are in the process, and that would be a very negative impact on our office."

The Competitive Enterprise Institute summarizes Dr. Carlin's report that EPA, by adopting the United Nations' 2007 'Fourth Assessment Report', is relying on outdated research and is ignoring major developments. Those developments include a continued decline in global temperatures, a new consensus that future hurricanes will not be more intense, and new findings that water vapor will moderate, rather than exacerbate, temperature. "New data also indicate that the most important single factor in explaining global temperature fluctuations, though solar cycles may play a role as well, and satellite data undercut the likelihood of endangerment from global warming."

Dr. David Gee, chairman of the science committee of the International Geological Congress, currently at Uppsala University in Sweden, says, "For how many years must the planet cool before we begin to see that the planet is not warming? For how many years must it cool? Obviously, 10 years is not enough."

Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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# Heath Boy Scouts make Philmont trail

Ten Boy Scouts and two advisers from Heath Troop 314 recently made the trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, a national camping area owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America.

Donated by Oklahoma oilman Waite Phillips in 1938, the camp covers almost 138,000 acres of mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains, with elevations ranging from 6,500 to 12,441 feet.

The group left June 23 on chartered buses, driving through the night to reach the New Mexico destination at 6 a.m. Upon arrival, the scouts ate breakfast and were assigned a ranger and tents. Their 40-pound backpacks were "shaken down" to ensure each contained the appropriate equipment for the visit.

After spending the first night at base camp where the elevation is 6,700 feet, the group was transported by school bus to the beginning of the trail. The scouts hiked 1.9 miles to the Lovers Leap Trail Camp, where they pitched tents and filled "bear bags" with items that might attract unwanted guests. These bags were hoisted high into a tree.

The next day, the group hiked 5.8 miles through the wilderness to enjoy scenic views from the top of Uraea Mesa at an elevation of 8,400 feet. A wrong turn put the group on an almost vertical slope and a sudden rainstorm made the trail slippery, so the hikers were relieved to reach camp and turn in.

The next day the group awoke at 4 a.m. to experience sunrise at Inspiration Point before hiking almost 10 miles to Camp Crater Lake, elevation 8,322 feet. The camp's theme is that of an early 1990s logging camp, and the camp staff played instruments and provided entertainment at the campfire.

The following day the scouts learned a lumberjack technique called sparring, which involves climbing up a tall pole using boots with metal spikes. After that, an 8.4-mile hike took the group to Camp Beaubien, with an elevation of 9,245 feet, and along the way summited Trail Peak at 10,242 feet. There they found the B-24D liberator bomber that crashed on April 22, 1942, during a training flight between Albuquerque, N.M., and Kansas City.

Camp Beaubien features a western theme, so the following day the scouts enjoyed a horse trail ride through the surrounding forest; showers with hot water provided by a wood-fired water heater; a chuck wagon dinner; and branding some of their possessions with Philmont cattle and horse brands. They also took part in a service project that involved thinning the forest around the camp to help protect it from forest fires.

The next day the campers hiked 4.4 miles to Camp Crooked Creek, which carries an early American homestead theme. Activities there included candle making, livestock care, horseshoes and cow milking.

Breakfast the following day was consumed on the way to Camp Clear Creek, elevation 10,400 feet. The scouts covered 5.5 miles



Pictured are scouts from Heath Boy Scout Troop 314, including Kit Bowyer, Chris Bowyer, Ethan Smith, Matthew Graves, Blake Hollowell, Zack Thacker, Evan Bakkal, Seph Stiles, Anthony Schneemann and Alton Smith. Shown at front is Malachi group recently went to Philmont Scout Ranch, a national camping area owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America.

and learned several new skills, including tomahawk throwing, black powder shooting and beaver trap operation.

Remaining days included a 9.9-mile hike to Camp Thunder Ridge (10,263 feet) that included a trek to Mount Phillips (11,711 feet), lunch at Comanche Peak and a visit to the staff camp at Cypher's Mine to enjoy the "stomp" where staff members played instruments and sang period songs; a day at Camp Cathedral Rock, a tour of Cypher's Mine, a hike to Cimarroncito where the boys climbed a rock wall and did repelling; and an 8-mile trek to Camp Tooth Ridge.

On Day 13, the group got up early to watch the sun rise prior to hiking 2 1/2 hours to reach the 'Welcome Back, You Made It' sign. They toured the Phillips' villa and purchased souvenirs, and the next morning loaded their gear and returned to Heath.

## Choral group plans Aug. 29

The Tri-County Choral Society will have open auditions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 29 at the Melody Room at City Hall, in Royse City.

No time slot or prepared music is required. Individual auditions should have a good ear, a desire to learn and music performed will cover a broad spectrum.

Rehearsals, under the direction of Carol Ruth Allen, Sept. 1. Allen led the North East Texas Choral Society.

For more details, call Amy McLeroy at 214-883-0957 or Cornelius at 972-816-9626.

## Vaughan earns college credit

Bethany Vaughan of Rockwall is among 180 high school students getting a head start on their college educations.

Vaughan, who will be a senior in the fall, is earning college credit this summer by participating in Harding Honors Symposium, a two-week academic program.

As part of the program, professors from a variety of disciplines, including communication, history, music, political science, Bible and more, for example - provide instruction to students who complete community service projects and recreational activities. Those who successfully complete the program are awarded three transferable university credit.

Since the program's inception in 1993, almost 2,000 students have participated.

Harding is located in Searcy, Ark.

## Y registers youth for fall sports

Registration for seven fall sports programs is open at Rockwall County YMCA.

Parents or guardians must visit the YMCA on North Main Street to register their children. Tackle football players must have their parents or guardians to registration so they can watch.

The Y offers tackle football for boys 8-12 years old, flag football for boys 6 and 7 and coed Small Fry football for 4- and 5-year-olds. Other sports are coed soccer for ages 4-16 and coed Small Fry for 3-year-olds; coed volleyball for grades 3-8, and coed girls 5-12 years old.

Games in an eight-game season can be played on Monday, Thursday or Saturday. Players receive a participation award at the end of the season.

There is a mandatory player placement day Saturday 9 a.m. for tackle football players who haven't played in a game last season or aren't returning to the same team as last year.

Small Fry teams will compete for one hour, which will include a half hour of practice and a half hour to scrimmage.

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